

# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AW-464  
PRECEDENCE AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO: MGKA-6169

**SECRET**

DATE: 11 February 1949

TO : Chief, SPG  
 Through FBM  
 FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe, Germany  
 SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational  
 SPECIFIC - Nikolaus POPPE  
 Ref: HEID 426 and KARL 3269

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 DOC. MICRO. SER.

1. Attached forwarded for your information are a group of British reports on Subject which were obtained by the EUCOM Liaison Office in Herford:

- a. Curriculum Vitae (N.G.M.)
- b. Biographic Note
- c. Report on Interview with Subject, dated 31 October 1946
- d. Interrogation Report on Subject, dated 11 November 1946
- e. Memo dated 13 May 1948

2. If any further biographical data on Subject, or his two sons, who are reportedly living in England under assumed names, is desired, we will be glad to query Intelligence Division EUCOM.

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**SECRET**

CLASSIFICATION

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CURRICULUM VITAE

I. MY LIFE

I was born on August 8th 1897 in Chefoo in China where my father was Russian consul (he died in 1913). I was baptized at the English Church in Chefoo.

In 1916 I finished the grammar school of the Swiss Reformed Church (Eglise Reformée) in St. Petersburg (Russia) and attended the University, the Oriental section of the Philological faculty. I studied the history of Asia, ethnology, the comparative grammar of the Indo-European languages and the following Oriental languages: the Turkic, the Mongolian, the Manju and the Tibetan. My teachers were the following well known scientists:

- (1) Prof. ~~Namnylovics~~ (Turkic languages) who was arrested in 1937 and disappeared.
- (2) Prof. ~~Leo Sternberg~~ d. 1927 (ethnology).
- (3) Prof. ~~Rudney~~ (Mongolian) who escaped to Finland in 1919.
- (4) Prof. ~~Vladimirtsev~~ (Mongolian) d. 1931.
- (5) Prof. ~~Kotwics~~ (Manju and Calmuck), emigrated to Poland in 1923.
- (6) Prof. ~~Serge d'Oldenbourg~~ (Buddhism) d. 1935.
- (7) Prof. ~~Barthold~~ (history of Asia) d. 1930.
- (8) Prof. ~~Soerbatsky~~ (Tibetan and Sanskrit) who starved in 1941 in Leningrad.
- (9) Prof. ~~D. K. Petrev~~ (Roman philology) who committed suicide in 1923, and other less known people.

I finished the University in 1921. In 1923 I passed my doctor examinations and obtained the right of teaching at Universities.

I married Ms. ~~Natalia Sololinska~~ in 1924 and I have two sons, Valery b. 1926 and Nicholas b. 1928.

II SCIENTIFIC EMPLOYMENT.

In 1919 I was employed as scientific collaborator at the Geographical Institute in Leningrad. There I drew ethnological maps and made other auxiliary works. In 1921 I was appointed assistant teacher and taught Finnish and Turkic. In 1921 I was employed at the Asiatic Museum of the Academy of Sciences (now Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy) where I catalogized Mongolian books and manuscripts. In 1923 I was employed at the University of Leningrad where I taught Mongolian.

In 1928 I was Professor of Mongolian at the Leningrad University and at the Institute of Living Oriental Languages (closed in 1938) and scientific collaborator of the Asiatic Museum.

In 1931 I was Professor of Mongolian at the same high schools and manager of the Mongolian department of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences and member of the Mongolian commission of the Academy.

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In 1933

In 1933 I was elected Member of the Academy of Sciences.

I remained professor of the University of Leningrad, member of the Academy of Sciences and manager of the Mongolian department of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy till August 1941.

Besides I taught 1-2 months a year at different provincial small universities:

March 1930 at the University Simferopol (Crimea) - Turko languages and comparative grammar.

May 1931 - the same.

July 1936 at the University Ulan Ude (Buriat-Mongolian Republic in Siberia) - Mongolian language.

August 1941 - May 1942 at the Calmuck Institute in Elista (Calmuck Region) - History of the Russian language, the Calmuck grammar.

July - August 1942 - Slavonic philology and Turkic at the Caratchay - Circassian Institute at Mikoyan-Shakhar (Caucasus).

The further events will be shown in the chapter X.

### III SCIENTIFIC JOURNEYS AND EXPEDITIONS.

1. In 1920 I travelled from Leningrad to the Caucasians of the Kalinin district and collected different linguistic subjects, tales, songs etc.
2. In 1921 I made a journey to the Calmucks and studied their language.
3. In 1924 I spent two months among the Carachais (a Turkic tribe) in the Caucasus and studied their dialect.
4. In 1926 I spent a month near Baku in the Caucasus and studied the language of the Azerbaijan Turks.
5. In 1926 and 1927 I undertook a journey to Mongolia. Then I was chief of an expedition. I travelled from Leningrad to Ulan-Ude (East Siberia) and from there by motor car to Ulan-Bator (Mongolia). From Ulan-Bator we travelled in the valleys of the rivers Khara, Tro, Selenga, Orkhon. I visited the famous Buddhist cloisters Amar Bayashkulants Kest, Erdeni Joo, Nuan Kure, studied ancient manuscripts, collected books and documents, collected folk lore and linguistic subjects among the nomads, discovered very interesting archaeological monuments (the unknown ruins of the ancient towns Ching Tolgay, Teelayn Ulan Balshing, Kharkokhaya Khara Balgas), discovered several unknown languages and dialects etc. We mapped the countries between Ulan Bator and the Orkhon River and made a complete economical description of these countries. The materials the expedition collected were exceedingly numerous and valuable.

We were 4 persons: Mr. ~~V. Kasakov~~ (died in jail in 1938), Mr. ~~Bambayev~~ (was shot in a prison in 1935), Mr. ~~Sanjeev~~ (he was a teacher in Moscow in 1941) and me.

/The scientific

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The scientific results of this expedition were considerable. Kasahevich published 3 books, Bembayeff 2 items, Sanjeev 1 book and 3 items. I published 5 books and 7 small publications.

6. In 1928 (May-Sept) I travelled in East Siberia (West of the Baikal lake) and studied the dialects of the Buriats. The results were published in 3 books.

7. In 1929 I travelled (in April) to Samarkand and Bukhara (in the Russian Turkestan) and studied the Mogul and Kalmaik dialects of the Usbeks. I worked at the famous Ibn Sina Library in Bukhara and discovered several valuable manuscripts of the XIIIth century.

From Bukhara I travelled to Alma Ata, visited the Mongolian tribe Sart-Calmuk (near the lake Tsik Kul) and studied their dialect but as it was not interesting I travelled further eastward and entered the Chinese province Sinkiang. There I travelled in Zoungaria, studied the dialects of the Oirats (Western Mongols), visited the towns Omgutshak and Bulja, there I met different interesting people; the remainder of the tribes Solon and Sibe. Then I reached Kashgaria and studied the Turkic language of the Kashgarians. I collected different valuable materials relating to the languages, ethnology and economics. These materials were not published because their publication was unwished from the political point of view.

8. In 1930 I travelled to the Buriats of the Aga district (on the Manjurian frontier) and studied their language. From there I came to Manjuria and worked in the town of Khailar, at the cloister Jandjeer and in different villages, where I studied the languages of the Dagours, Solons and Bargoots. From Manjuria, I travelled to Ulan Bator in Mongolia and studied ancient manuscripts and the dialects of the Inner Mongolian tribes of Ordos, Kharohin and Urat, and travelled from Ulan Bator to Inner Mongolia. There I spent 3 months in the country of Ulan Chab and studied dialects and collected ethnological subjects. The results were published in 4 books.

9. In 1931 (July-August) I studied the dialects of the Buriats in the Selenga valley and published my materials in a book and in 2 items.

10. In 1932 (May-August) I travelled in the Buriat-Mongolian Republic in the districts Barguzin, Khirit-Bulgat and Bokhan and studied dialects. Later I published 1 book.

11. The summers 1933, 34, 35 were spent in the Caucasus, where I studied the dialects of the Carachays.

12. The summer 1936 was spent in the Buriat Republic. I lectured at the University and studied dialects in the Khori district.

13. The summer 1938 was spent in the Caucasus. I continued my Carachay studies.

14. The summer 1940 (May-July) was spent in Ulan Ude in the Buriat Republic where I was helping in preparing the first Buriat dramatic plays. I had to advise the authors and artists on ethnological and historical matters.

/The general

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The general conclusion is that I know Mongolia, Turkestan, Caucasus, the province Sinkiang, Siberia and Manjuria. I know Mongolia, Turkestan, Siberia and Caucasus better than anybody. I knew the languages of the natives, their ethnological peculiarities, the economies of these countries and the political conditions there. I don't boast affirming that now I have no rivals in the world; in the British Commonwealth and in America nobody knows (or knew) those countries sufficiently and in Russia people who knew them died.

#### IV SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS.

My travels in different countries and my working in libraries and museums and last not least my studies at the University gave me a perfect knowledge of the different peoples, tribes, languages, customs etc.

I was able to publish 166 books and items in different scientific magazines.

Complete bibliographies of my works published before 1932 can be found in the following publications:

- (a) Bibliography of the Mongolological literature 1917-1932 in Bibliografuya Vostoka 5-6, p. 37-50.
- (b) Russische Arbeiten auf dem Gebiet der Mongolistik während der Jahre 1926-27. Asia Major, Vol V, p. 214-227.

Here only the most important work will be mentioned.

#### 1924

- 1. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Altmongolischen Schriftsprache. Asia Major Vol. I.

#### 1925

- 2. The Mongolian names of animals in Khamdullah Kazwini's work (in Russian). Zapiski Kalligii Vestokevedov, Vol. I.
- 3. Türkisch-Tschuwasische vergleichende Studien. Isiawica, Vol. I.
- 4. Zum Feuerkultus bei den Mongolen, Asia Major, Vol. II.
- 5. The Chuvash language and its relation to the Mongolian and Turkic (in Russian). Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS 1924-1925.

#### 1926

- 6. Geserica. Untersuchung der sprachlichen Eigentümlichkeiten der Mongolischen Version des Geserikan. Asia Major III.
- 7. The history and the actual state of the reciprocal relationship of the Altaic languages (in Russian). Comptes Rendus du Premier Congrès Turcologie, Baku, 1926.

/8. A Manual

8. A Manual of the Yakut Language (in Russian). Moscow 1926. 120 pp. (a book).
9. Altaisch und Urtürkisch. Ungarische Jahrbucher, Bd. VI, Berlin.
10. The Finno-Ugrian peoples. (in Russian). Leningrad 1927 (a booklet 50 p.)

1927

11. The Mongolian Numerals (in Russian) in "Sbernik yazykovednykh problem po cislitel'ny'm" I, Leningrad 1927.
12. Materials belonging to an exploration of the Tungus language (in Russian), Grammar, dictionary and texts. Leningrad, 1927. (a book).

1928

13. Etimological explorations of Finno-Ugrian peoples in URSS (in Russian). In: "Finno-ugrsky Sbernik I", Leningrad 1927, p. 27-77.
14. Zum Khalkha-mongolischen Heldensagen. Asia Major, Vol. V, 3 183-215.
15. Das Mongolische Sprachmaterial einer Leidener Handschrift. Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de l'URSS 1927-1928.

1929

16. A report on a journey in the Orkhon valley in summer 1926 (in Russian). Materialy Komissii po issledovaniyu Mongol'skoy Narodnoi Respubliki, IV, Leningrad 1929.

1930

17. The Dageur language (in Russian). A book containing a grammar, glossary and texts. Leningrad 1930, 177 pp.
18. The dialect of the Alar Buriats. Part I (in Russian). Leningrad 1930. IV + 130 pp (a book).

1931

19. The dialect of the Alar Buriats. Part II (in Russian), Leningrad 1931, II + 216 pp (a book).
20. The Selon language (in Russian). A grammar, texts and glossary. II + 143 p. Leningrad 1931 (a book).
21. A practical manual of the Mongolian colloquial language. Leningrad VIII + 180 p. (in Russian).

1932

22. Description of the Mongolian Manuscripts belonging to the Academy of Sciences (in Russian). Zapiski Instituta Vostokovedeniya I.
23. Remarks on the dialect of the Aga Buriats. Leningrad, 1932 (in Russian).

24. A Manual of the Mongolian language Leningrad 1932, 245 p. (in Russian).
25. Khalkha-Mongolian Folk-lore (in Russian). Leningrad 1932, 190 p. (a book).

1933

26. The Buriat-Mongolian philology (in Russian) Leningrad, 1933. 150 p. (a book).
27. The X anniversary of the Buriat-Mongolian Republic and the national script (in Mongolian). Ulan Ude, 1933.
28. The peoples of Eastern Siberia and their languages (in Russian). Irkutsk 1933 (a book).

1934

29. The ancient Mongolian epics (in Russian) in "Sbornik v Est' 50-letiya deyatel'nosti S.F. Oldenburga" Leningrad, 1934.
30. The language and the new poetry of the Selenga Buriats (in Russian). Leningrad 1934. 132 p. (a book).
31. Über die Sprache der Daghuren. Asia Major. Vol. X. Leipzig 1934.
32. The Buriat-Mongolian songs after the Revolution (in Russian). In Sovetskii Folklor, I, Leningrad 1934.

1935

33. Problems of the Buriat literature (in Russian). Zapiski Instituta vostokovedeniya III.
34. Puppe and Vestrikkoff. A history of the Barguzin Buriats (in Russian). Leningrad-Moscow 1935 (a book).
35. A history of the Khalkha Buriats (in Russian). A book X +.172 p. Leningrad, 1935.

1936

36. A Russian-Mongolian Colloquial Dictionary. Leningrad, 1935 (a book).
37. A history of the Selenga Buriats. Part I. (in Russian). Leningrad 1936.
38. The Buriat-Mongolian Folklore (in Russian). In "Sovetskii Folklore II-III, Moscow 1936.
39. The Khalkha-Mongolian language (in Russian) Leningrad, 1936 (a book).
40. The Origin of breeding cattle in Mongolia (in Russian). In "Domashnie Kivotnye Mongolov", Moscow, 1936.
41. Buriat-Mongolian Folk-lore and dialectology (in Russian). Leningrad 1936 (a book, 167 pp).
42. The Khalkha-Mongolian epics (in Mongolian). In the magazine "Shine Toli" ("The New Mirror"), Ulan Bator, 1936.

/43. The Khalkha

1937

43. The Khalkha-Mongolian heroic epics (in Russian). Leningrad 1937 (a book 135 pp).  
44. A Mongolian Grammar (in Russian). Moscow-Leningrad 1937, (a book). 196 pp.

1938

45. A Buriat Grammar (in Russian). Moscow-Leningrad, 1938, 268 pp.

1938

46. The breeding of cattle and the agriculture in Central Asia. An economical survey. 1938, a book 192 pp.

1939

47. The Mongolian-Turkic-Arabic Dictionary "Mukaddimat al Adab". Vol I & II. Moscow-Leningrad 1938-39. I & II + 566 pp (in Russian). Leningrad 1940 (a book 117 pp).

1940

48. The Buriat annals of Toboyeff and Yumsunoff (in Russian) Leningrad 1940. (a book) 177 pp.  
49. The Russian Explorations of the languages and of the ethnological peculiarities of the peoples of Central Asia (in Russian). In "Bulletin of the Geographical Society" Vol. 72, Leningrad 1940.  
50. A Manual of the Mongolian language (together with Staritsyna und Sanjeff). Moscow 1940.

1941

51. A Manuscript on birch-bark of the time of the Golden Horde (in Russian). In "Sovetskoye Vostokovedenie", Vol II pp 80-136.  
52. The history of the Mongolian Script. Vol I (in Russian). Moscow-Leningrad, 1941. 166 p. (a book).

1942

53. Die Sprache der Mongolischen Quadratschrift und das Yüan-chiao pi-shi. Asia Major Neue Folge, Vol I. Leipzig 1944.

Y. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MENTIONED PUBLICATIONS AND DISCOVERIES.

The easiest way to show the importance of some of my works is the way of characterizing their contents.

1. The Mongolian philology has produced very few grammars and we can state that the grammars published before 1917 were not complete or contained mistakes. Besides there were no grammars of the colloquial language which differs from the script language considerably. There were no practical manuals and one who intended to learn Mongolian had no other way than to study obsolete philological works. It is not difficult to imagine the results of such studies.

/Y published

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I published the first manuals of the Mongolian (s.No. 21, 24, 50). These are practical and suitable to learning the language even without aid of a teacher. These works (N21 and 24) were adopted by all Universities in USSR and Germany. It is to be stressed that No. 21 was the first book on the Colloquial Mongolian. Also my Khalkha-Mongolian Dictionary (s.No. 36) is the first dictionary of the colloquial language of the population of the Mongolian Republic.

I published the best grammar of the script-Mongolian (s.No. 44). Its appearance was greeted by all Orientalists in USA by Prof. K. Menges, in France by Paul Pelliot, in Hungary by Prof. J. Nemeth, in Denmark by Prof. K. Gronbech, in Sweden by G. Jarring etc.

2. A weak point of the Mongolian philology was the lack of knowledge of dialects and colloquial languages. Only Rasmstedt (Finland) studied some colloquial languages. The greater part of the Mongolian languages was unknown to the scholarship.

I was lucky to discover and to study different languages nobody had known.

In 1930 I discovered in Manjuria a very interesting archaic Mongolian language (the Dagoeri). I published a grammar, a dictionary and texts with Russian translations (s.No. 17). These books had an immense success. (s. 31).

Prof. Paul Pelliot (Paris) and other scientists published very benevolent reviews of my book.

The Buriat language was unexplored. I explored all dialects of that language, and published the first complete grammar (s.No. 45) and many descriptions of dialects. (s.No. 18, 19, 23, 30, 41). My explorations afforded the creation of the new romanized Buriat script and the establishment of teacher schools and institutes in the Buriat Republic. My Buriat studies had a big success and many Orientalists published reviews of my works.

3. I published the first collection of various texts in many oriental languages (in phonetical transcription). (s.No. 25, 30, 41).
4. On my travels I had the opportunity to study many non-Mongolian languages. I published the first modern researches on the Tungus languages which had been unknown to the scholarship (s.No. 12, 20).
5. The Mongolian literature and folk-lore were unknown. I am the first explorer who showed that there is a rich folk-lore and an ancient literature. I published the first books on the Mongolian epic songs (s.No. 14, 25, 29, 32, 38, 41, 43). These works were reviewed by Pelliot, Unkriag, Ligeti a.c.
6. I discovered and published many Mongolian historical works (s.No. 34, 35, 37, 48). These publications afforded a complete history of the Buriats by the Russian scientist Kudsyartseff (Ishutak 1940).
7. The history of the Mongolian and Turkic languages, their relationship and all questions connected to the so-called Altaic family of languages were explored very insufficiently. It can be affirmed that my works on that dominion contributed much to the knowledge the science got.

/The most

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The most important works belonging to this category are my explorations of ancient Arabic-Mongolian dictionaries of the XIIIth century (s. No. 1, 15, and 47). The latter (No. 47), "The Mongolian-Turkic-Arabic dictionary Mukaddimat al Adab", is a work of 566 pages. It contains more than 10,000 ancient Mongolian words and 15,000 sentences in ancient Mongolian (pronunciation of the XIIIth century). This work was reviewed by Ramstedt, Pelliot, Menges a. c. and was called the most prominent contribution to the Oriental studies during a long time.

Another very important work is No. 52 "History of the Mongolian Script". In this book I deciphered a script, invented in 1269. I translated many documents in that script, published a glossary and a grammar of the language of 1269-1370.

8. The publication of my work No. 51 "A Manuscript on birch-bark of the Golden Horde" was a sensational event. This is a publication of fragments of a manuscript, containing the most ancient poetry of the Mongolian invaders who conquered Russia in the XIIIth century. The Manuscript was discovered in the earth on the river Volga. I published these songs and translated them. My work was reviewed in all American newspapers.
9. My travels gave me a perfect knowledge of all conditions in Siberia, Central Asia, Mongolia and Manchuria. I know the natives and their customs better than anybody. My books "The peoples of Eastern Siberia" (No. 28), "The Russian Explorations of the peoples of Central Asia" (No. 49) are important contributions to the ethnology.
10. Besides I knew the economical and political conditions in Mongolia and Turkestan, Manchuria and Siberia. My works, "The Origin of breeding cattle in Mongolia" (No. 40), and "Breeding cattle and agriculture in Central Asia" (No. 46) are the most important ones on the dominion of economics of Asia.

#### VI MY ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITIES

I am an explorer and a scientist in the first place. But I lectured at Universities too. I trained students and I had my lectures on different subjects.

1. In the first place I lectured on the Mongolian language. Since 1928 I taught the following subjects:-
  - (a) Script Mongolian and
  - (b) Colloquial Mongolian (both practical courses) at the Institute of Oriental languages in Leningrad.

#### At the University in Leningrad.

- (c) Script Mongolian (theory).

/(d) Colloquial

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- (d) Colloquial Khalkha-Mongolian (theory)
  - (e) Buriat-Mongolian language (theory and practice)
  - (f) History of the Mongolian languages.
  - (g) Mongolian dialects.
2. Mongolian literature and folk-lore (at the University).
  3. History of the Mongols (at the University).
  4. Ancient history of Central Asia and Mongolia (in 1936-38) at the Institute of Oriental languages in Leningrad and at the Moscow Oriental Institute.
  5. Geography and economics of Mongolia (in 1936-38 at the Leningrad Oriental Institute).
  6. The comparative grammar of the Mongolian, Turkic and Manchu-Tungus languages (University of Leningrad 1925-1941).
  7. The Turkic language (at the Crimea University March 1930, May 1931).
  8. The comparative grammar of the Turkic languages (Crimea University March 1930, May 1931).
  9. Calmuck language in Elista 1941-42.
  10. Russian language in Elista 1941-42.

#### VII

##### MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

I was elected member of the following scientific societies:

- (1) The learned society of Azerbaijan (1926).
- (2) The learned society of the Chuvash Republic (1927).
- (3) Société Finno-Ougrienne (Helsinki, Finland) in 1930.
- (4) Károly Csoma Society Budapest (in 1928).
- (5) Estonian Learned Society (1935).
- (6) Academy of Sciences of USSR (in 1933).
- (7) Committee of Pacific Explorations (USA) in 1935(?).
- (8) Buriat-Mongolian Scientific Institute (1938).
- (9) Mongolian Scientific Committee in Ulan Bator (1939).

#### VIII

##### KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES

###### A. Scientific and practical knowledge:

- (a) Russian
- (b) Mongolian (Script Mongolian, Khalkha, Buriat, Calmuck).
- (c) Finnish.

###### B. - Only theoretical

B. Only theoretical scientific knowledge (reading, translating, understanding other people's speech, not speaking).

- (a) Turkic (in Turkey)
- (b) Azerbaijan
- (c) Carachai (Caucasus)
- (d) Tatar
- (e) Yakut
- (f) Uzbek
- (g) Ancient Turkic
- (h) Manja
- (i) Tungus (Selen and Barguzin)
- (j) Tibetan.

C. Only practical knowledge (reading and speaking):

- (a) German
- (b) French
- (c) English

#### IX PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Being a rare specialist and possessing a knowledge of things only few people knew or nobody knows I was used as counsellor by the government.

1. In 1930 I was charged with the composition of a romanized alphabet for the Tuva people. I created that alphabet and it was introduced.
2. In 1930 and 1931 I had to create a romanized alphabet for the Buriats. It was done.
3. In 1936 I was charged with the creation of a Buriat alphabet on Russian basis. Later this alphabet was introduced.
4. In 1930-32 I worked as a member of a terminological commission at the "Communist University of the Working People of the East" (in Moscow). That University (a kind of school for propagandists and agents of Communist organizations in Asia) intended to publish different works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin in oriental languages and needed an exact and precise oriental terminology.
5. In 1940 I had to instruct Buriat and Russian authors and artists on subjects of history and ethnology because the government planned the creation of dramatic plays for a projected Buriat theatre.
6. In 1930-35 I instructed Mongolian scientists on terminological subjects.
7. In 1931-32 I inspected translations of different political books and propaganda works into the languages of the Mongols of Mongolia and Middle Asia.
8. In 1937-38 I lectured on the Mongolian to an audience at the "School of Translators and Editors of Marxist Works" in Leningrad.

/9. In 1938 and 1939

9. In 1938 and 1939 I worked for the Russian Boundary Commission. This commission was created soon after the battles between the Russians and Japanese (Lake Khasan, Khalkhin Gol in Mongolia etc). The Chief of the Russian delegation was General Bogdanoff. He urgently needed a man who knew the boundary questions and, in the first place, the boundaries between Russia, Mongolia and Manjuria during the last centuries. I knew ancient maps (of Deguigne, XVIIIth century), Chinese maps of the XVIII-XIXth centuries and Mongolian maps of the XIX century. Besides I knew all old descriptions of these countries. The results of my work were interesting from that point of view that the Japanese pretensions turned out without foundation; the countries the Japanese wanted never had belonged to Manjuria but since the XVIIIth century they belonged to Russia or Mongolia.
10. In 1939 before the Finnish war I was charged by the Commandant of the Military district of Leningrad with a translation of a complete triangulation of Northern and Eastern Finland from the Finnish into the Russian. The volumes of that triangulation were secret editions. I don't know how the Commandant had got them. I was translating these books in a room of the Topographic department of the Military district Commandant. There were books containing the triangulation of Petsamo, of the countries near Viborg etc. One may ask why I have been charged with this task. The explanation is simple; there was no other people knowing the Finnish language. Besides it was a very difficult translation because the translator had to be a specialist on mapping, and they knew that I mapped different countries in Mongolia. I suppose my translations offered a good service to the Red Army in the Finnish war (1939-1940).
11. In 1933 I was charged with advising the Commandant of the Far East Army. In 1933 the Far East Army commenced the fortifications on the Russian-Manjuria boundaries and different questions arose; the staff of General Blucher wanted to know the most ancient boundaries, besides many people (Buriats and other natives) were to be transferred in other countries because their settlements were to be destroyed etc.
12. In 1935-36 I worked (together with other people) on a map of Asia (Mongolia, Manjuria, Western China) 1:500,000. I had to inspect the correct spelling of names (rivers, lakes, mountains etc). The map was prepared by the General Staff.

# I

## GENERAL CONDITIONS OF MY LIFE BEFORE THE WAR

I worked with success and I was able to support my family. But my scientific work was facing different difficulties of political kind.

Historical researches in USSR were strongly influenced by the Marxist doctrine. In historical works the principal part belonged to descriptions of the class struggles, suppression of workers by the ruling class, imperialistic expansion etc. After 1935 suddenly a Sovietic patriotism was preached. Before 1935 the ancient epic songs and tales were called creations "of the ruling class who composed them with the aim to make the people stupid and to disseminate superstitions among the suppressed class". Suddenly after 1935 the epic songs were declared "monuments of the

/heroical spirit

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heroical spirit of the Sovietic people". These changes depended on changes of the Soviet policy. It was difficult to have an independent conception. Some books of mine could not be published because they contradicted the recent political tendencies.

But this was not the worst. Insupportable were the political persecutions.

In chapter I I mentioned the name of the greatest Russian turkologist Samuilovich who disappeared for ever. He was my teacher. But since 1935 an immense number of Russian scientists were arrested and never came back. Here I only mention the names of the most prominent people I knew:

*many are names*

- (1) Prof. S. R. Flatcheff (the greatest Russian historian).
- (2) Prof. E. F. Karakii (a famous explorer of Slavonic languages).
- (3) Prof. V. A. Perets (a famous explorer of Ukraina).
- (4) Prof. A. A. Miller (archaeologist).
- (5) Prof. S. A. Toploukhov "
- (6) Prof. G. Borovka "
- (7) Prof. F. Fialstrup (ethnologist)
- (8) Prof. B. B. Basadin (the only Buriat scientist).
- (9) Prof. Z. Z. Jamsarano (a great mongolologist, my friend).
- (10) Prof. V. A. Kazakovics (a remarkable mongolologist, my collaborator and intimate friend).
- (11) Prof. N. A. Nevskii (a remarkable japanist, my friend)
- (12) The wife of the latter (the daughter of a Japanese professor).
- (13) Prof. A. I. Vostrikov (Tibetanist, my collaborator) and his wife.
- (14) Prof. B. A. Vasiliev (Chinese language, my friend).
- (15) Prof. M. L. Tabianski (Sanskrit, Tibetan).
- (16) Prof. A. N. Henko (Caucasian languages, my intimate friend).
- (17) Prof. V. A. Eberman (Arabist, my friend) and his wife.
- (18) E. B. Batakhani (teacher of Mongolian, my collaborator).
- (19) A. V. Burdakov { " " " " " }
- (20) G. Marguen { " " " " " }
- (21) D. Zedene { " " " " " }
- (22) L. Gombain (my student, later a good scientist).
- (23) A. Kovalovski (Arabist).
- (24) A. A. Situkin (Chinese language).
- (25) P. I. Vorobiev, Rector of the Institute of Oriental languages.
- (26) M. I. Amagayeff, Rector of the same institute.
- (27) Fitrat (Uzbek scientist and poet).
- (28) Prof. Chabansade (Turkologist, Prof. at the University, Baku).
- (29) P. Dambineff (Buriat poet).
- (30) Amir Sanan (Calmyck poet).
- (31) Gazi Alim Tamssoff (Uzbek poet).

It is useless to ennumerate the names of all people that were arrested and disappeared. I believe I could add not less than 200 names of people I knew. It is sufficient if I mention that the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences had 90 scientists in 1935, 28 of them were arrested and disappeared. The philological faculty had 170 professors and teachers, 60 of them disappeared. In 1935 I had 12 collaborators in my Mongolian department, 6 of them were arrested and 1 discharged. I was deprived of my collaborators.

Several of my relations were arrested too. The first husband of my sister was arrested and shot. The uncle of my wife aged 70 was arrested and taken to Siberia only because he was manager of a church. The church was closed, the priests and he were arrested. The brother of the godfather of my eldest son died in jail and the godfather of the other son was shot.

/I and my wife

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I and my wife were desperate. We understood nothing and we lived in a permanent worry. We expected our arrestation every day, we did not sleep and watched all motor cars passing our house in the night. And this lasted for weeks, months and years. My wife did not bear it, she got an apoplexy and was paralysed. Now she has a paralysed leg and will never recover completely. I procured potassium cyanide and was ready to commit suicide.

The only way to get rid of that horror was the emigration. But how could I escape? I never was allowed to travel to Europe. I obtained many invitations; to Finland (Centenary of Kalevala), to Turkey, to Vienna (Congress of Orientalists) to Rome (Congress), to Paris (lectures at the University) but I never obtained a permission from the Government, and if I had a permission my family would not have it. I was allowed to travel only in Asiatic countries, controlled by the Soviets and alone without my family.

Life in USSR was dreadful. But I knew that Germany was but little less dreadful. I did not believe in the Soviet propaganda but I had a precise information of my own. My friends told me. In 1935 Prof. H. W. K. (now a professor to the Columbia University) escaped from Germany and came to Leningrad. He told me dreadful particularities of life in Germany. He wished to work in Russia but soon he understood that Russia was not better than Germany. Besides he was not allowed to stay there and travelled to Turkey and from there to USA.

I never thought that I should come to Germany. I hated the totalitarian systems, the persecution of other nationalities, the persecution of religion etc. My wish was to work in a democratic country. But it was an unaccomplishable dream .....an utopia .....

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The war began on 22nd June 1941. My family made a trip to our friends in the Caucasus six days before the beginning of the war. I was in LENINGRAD. On July 6th the Academy of Science was ordered to evacuate the most valuable subjects. On July 15th it was evident that it was too late - many scientists were ordered to leave LENINGRAD. I was sent to the CALMUCKS who needed a professor of their language. On July 25th I left LENINGRAD, reached the Volga river and travelled by steamer to ASTRAKHAN; from there I travelled by lorry to ELISTA (300 miles through a desert), secured accommodation for my family, and they came from the Caucasus to ELISTA. I lectured on Russian and CALMUCK languages at the CALMUCK Institute from the end of August 1941 until May 1942.

The conditions in ELISTA were difficult and it was not safe because it was so near to ROSTOV (only 300 km) from ELISTA. Another difficulty or danger menaced from the Soviet Authorities. In July 1941 the Republic of the Volga Germans was abolished and all Germans (450,000 people) were deported to SIBERIA. The authorities were very suspicious and people having non-Russian names were arrested. I am not a 100 per cent German because of my grand-father who was born in ESTONIA and was a Baltic German, married an Estonian girl who even did not speak German. But the suspicion of all such people was not better, and it is well known that after the annexation of ESTONIA in 1940, more than 40,000 Estonians were exiled to SIBERIA. Fortunately, in my papers my nationality was indicated as being "Russian" I was under suspicion and was called by the police twice during 1941.

In ELISTA, I taught and I wrote paragraphs of patriotic contents in the newspaper "Leninskii put" ("Leninist Road"). These were anti-German paragraphs.

In 1942 I understood that we were not safe in ELISTA because the Germans were near ROSTOV and it was evident that they would come to ELISTA. I did not want to live in a country under German rule. My reasons were the following:

1. I disagreed with the Nazis.
2. My anti-Nazi pamphlets and paragraphs published in ELISTA could be dangerous for me if I remained in the country where they were published.
3. I did not want to collaborate with the Germans because a collaboration would be a treachery against the Russian people. Nevertheless, if I would not collaborate, the Soviets would be extremely suspicious towards all people who had lived in a country temporarily conquered by the Germans. I wished to avoid the Germans.

NOTE:

In all questionnaires since 1921 till the war there was a question "Did you live in a country invaded during the civil war by the White Army or by the Allies.?" People who had lived in 1918 - 20 in Crimea or in other countries under the rule of White authorities or British-American authorities (Arkhangel) were under suspicion and many of them were arrested.

In June 1942 I tried to travel to TASHKENT in TURKESSTAN and to join an Institute of the Academy of Science. But there was no communication from ELISTA to ASTRAKHAN; there were no motor cars and it was impossible to cross the desert. In the first days of July 1942 I decided to travel to TASHKENT by railway till BAKU and from there by steamer to KRASNOVOBSK and then again by train. ELISTA is situated 90 miles from the Caucasian railway. I reached the railway but there was a complete chaos - no regular communication, thousands of fugitives retreating troops etc. With many difficulties we reached the station Mervino-Myskaya (400 km from ELISTA) and there we understood that the continuation of the travel was impossible. I remembered that 60 or 70 miles from that station was an Institute in the town of MIKOYAN SHAKHAR in the Caratchai region, far away in the mountains. That place seemed to be safe because it was difficult to suppose that the Germans could come there. Besides I knew the manager of that institute. He had invited me many months ago.

We reached MIKOYAN SHAKHAR. Two or three days later ROSTOV was occupied

[ ]  
22/5



by the Germans. The situation grew grave but nobody supposed that MIKOYAN SHAKHAR could be menaced. I was employed at the Institute as professor and Caratchai languages.

The news from the front was bad. The German army advanced rapidly and the Russian 9th and 37th armies retreated in extreme disorder. Suddenly on August 15th the Soviet authorities ordered an evacuation of MIKOYAN SHAKHAR, but on August 18th there arose a revolt of the Caucasian natives. The Soviets left the town. I went to the Commander of the Russian garrison and begged him to take us away, but he answered that he had but one motor car and no more. He left the town, but three hours later his corpse was found in the wood 10 miles from the town. He and his companions were attacked by the Caucasians and lost their lives.

It was impossible to escape. All Caucasians (Caratchais, Circassians, Balcars etc) and many Russian cossacks revolted. The forests and the valleys in the mountains were overcrowded by the revolted. The local population demolished the Institute, one library, the house of the Communist party. All people who tried to escape were caught and killed. It was a dreadful anarchy and the Germans advanced and advanced. Finally, on August 20th or 25th (I do not remember) the first German troops entered the town. They made a rather good impression because they were polite and well disciplined. The local population greeted them ardently and after a week of occupation the Caucasians and Cossacks established several volunteer units and fought against the remainder of the Soviet troops in the mountains.

My situation was desperate; I had no money and had very few objects that I could sell. Fortunately, the harvest came and the farmers needed workers. My eldest son worked at a farm and got potatoes and corn for his work. We sold a watch and a gown and so we were able to exist buying potatoes on the black-market.

On September 10th or 15th, I was called by the Russian burgomeister who asked me to go with him and a German "Oberstaatsarzt" to the hospital where 3,000 sick children (evacuated from the Crimea) were starving. We went to the hospital and the Oberstaatsarzt (I did not know his name) ordered to give the hospital rations from the German army stock. I was glad that I had to translate this order into Russian. The Oberstaatsarzt asked me who I was and I told him. He advised me to travel to KISLOVODSK (a town 70 miles from MIKOYAN) because life there was better. I travelled with my family to KISLOVODSK. There were 2,000 evacuated scientists and among them some friends of mine. The German Commander ordered the Russian Burgomeister of KISLOVODSK to support those scientists and the latter got potatoes and bread from the Burgomeister and 1,000 Roubles a month (each scientist) from the town hall. This was a big relief for the scientists. We did not work, obtained 1,000 Roubles a month and some food. In general the German behaved decently in the Caucasus, perhaps, because population was very friendly to them. Once in September 1942, I was called by the Burgomeister (a native) who said to me that there were people interested in the history and ethnology of the Caucasian people - Russian scientists evacuated from other towns, natives and German officers who had no idea of the Caucasus. He said I was the only specialist with the first-hand knowledge and my duty was to help. I considered this proposal and as I did not see a kind of collaboration with the Germans in such lectures, I agreed. Two lectures took place and as German officers were present, I had to translate my lectures.

Soon an officer of the "Ortskommandantur" visited me and proposed to write short descriptions of all tribes in the Caucasus (their history, origin, customs, trades etc) adding: "You know the people here are very kind to us and we and we do not want to make mistakes in our behaviour towards them; it is dreadful, we have no idea of the people here." I wrote a description of the Caratchais, Circassians, Balcars, Kabardines and Ossetes and mentioned the so-called "Mountain Jews" too. I often asked myself whether it was good of me that I accepted that proposal. Was it a collaboration? But on the other side the knowledge of the history and customs scarcely could be a contribution to the war potential of Nazi-Germany, and perhaps, if the Germans would treat the natives as sub-human beings ("Untermenschen") it would not be good for the population. Perhaps I was not wrong writing those descriptions because the Germans would be more decent towards people possessing an ancient Mohammedan culture if they (i.e. the Germans) would know them and their history.

In the last days of October 1942 the German troops occupied the town of

Naltchik (120 km from KISLOVODSK). On November 12th or 15th I suddenly was ordered to accompany an officer of SS to Naltchik and to help him because different complicated national questions arose. Of course I was worried because I did not know what the German intended to do and what I had to do there, but the question turned out to be a simple one. In Naltchik there was a colony of the "Mountain Jews". The Germans who had killed all Jews learned that their lived 3,000 Mountain Jews. The first step of the Germans was that they ordered to close all Mountain Jewish shops and ordered them to pay an immense contribution. The Mountain Jews protested and claimed to be no Jews and were supported by other natives. The SS officer possessed a book, "Der Kaukasus" published by the Wannsee-Institut but there was no mention of those Jews. He showed me the book. It was rather a good one and contained few mistakes. Of course it was very tendentious and written in a strong Nazi spirit.

The "Mountain Jews" or the Tat are an Iranian tribe. They left Persia in the VIIIth century. They speak a Persian dialect and live like other Caucasians. But they confess the Jewish religion. Nevertheless they possessed all rights under the Czar. They were allowed to settle in every country and possessed the right to be in state service. This circumstance was very important. I explained the Germans the origin of the Tat and I wrote a description of that people. The SS men wished to see those Tat and I told the "Mountain Jews" that they had to make a good impression. The Jews arranged a festival with national dancing. The Germans liked them and allowed them to continue their trades. The payment of the contribution was withdrawn. The Tat obtained all rights. Of course, they were very happy. I was satisfied that I was able to help them because after closing their shops and after the payment of contributions they certainly would have been shot like all Jews in Ukraine. But my situation got more difficult: The "Mountain Jews" told everyone that I had helped them by saying "that this professor is a man with influence", even the Germans obey him". Scarcely such a reputation could be favourable for me if the Soviets would come back. They would not estimate my efforts for the sake of humanity but they would call me a collaborator of the Germans. And I decided to leave Russia.

Of course it is a tragedy. A man who committed no crimes, who tried to help his compatriots, his fellow-citizens, who saved (perhaps, I saved them indeed). 3,000 Mountain Jews had to go to the country of the enemies, to lose his friends and his scientific career (a splendid career). After all I want to ask: Does a justice exist?

In the end of December the Germans began the evacuation of the Caucasus. I joined them and I was transferred together with 2,000 other fugitives, (Russians, Caucasians, Cossacks etc) to Ukraine. The travel was extremely difficult. We were 50 people in a cattle wagon without heating. It was very cold (20 below zero Celsius !). On February 3rd we arrived in NIKOPOL and lived there with other fugitives till March 23rd 1943. From NIKOPOL we came to LNOV (LEMBERG) in POLAND. We arrived there on April 2nd or 3rd. The scientists who had travelled with us and I and my family were placed in an hotel. We were told that we could be employed in Germany according to our specialities. I wrote to the Universities in Berlin, Leipzig, Frankfurt and Göttingen, but I got no answer. The situation of other people was not better because nobody needed professors of Russian literature or Psychology. Finally we were visited by the Chief of the SS and SD of the district LEMBERG, Oberführer Hoffmeyer. He promised to do something and advised me to apply to the Wannsee-Institut in Berlin. His name was known to me because I had read the book, "Der Kaukasus" published by that institute. I had no idea whose institute it was and thought it was a kind of geographical institute. HOFFMEYER gave me a letter to the manager of the institute and I travelled to Berlin without my family. There I found the institute, I was introduced to the manager, (Professor) ACHMISTELL, and he said to me that I could be employed. I wrote an application and made my statements in a questionnaire and travelled back to LEMBERG. This was in May 1943. In the last days of May 1943 I travelled to Berlin with my family. I had no accommodation and Professor ACHMISTELL informed me that I could be placed in the Hotel Roxy (Kurfürstendamm). Later, I rented two rooms in a private family.

My work at the Wannsee-Institut commenced in June 1943. Soon I learned that it belonged to the Amt VI of the Reichs sicherheitsamt. I was invited to the Amt VI to Stabsführer Grafe and I was introduced to Dr. WENGELHAUPT, Dr. STEDULE, Dr. LEO, Dr. WEIHRACH and Dr. HANDRACK. They asked me questions about my former life and work and said to me that I must not tell other people that I was working at the Wannsee-Institut. I was in the Amt VI twice or thrice because different formalities had to be made: wages, questions etc. The room I had rented in a family house was expensive, 225 RMK a month. Therefore the Amt VI promised to

pay me RMK 600. In the Institute I wrote a paper about the Soviet policy towards the nationalities., another on "The high schools of USSR" and commenced a book, "The population of Siberia" (statistics, origin, nationalities, history etc). But in September 1943 the Wannsee-Institute was evacuated to SCHLOB Plankenwarth near Graz in steiermark (Austria). The evacuation lasted for many weeks and still in February 1944 the institute was unable to work because the library was in disorder and there was no water supply etc.. I remained in Berlin and in November 1943 I was called by Professor DONAT, manager of the Ost-Asien-Institute, who told me that Professor G. von Mendel of the Ostministerium wished to meet me. I went to him and he proposed me to lecture on Mongolian and Turkic at the University Berlin. I was very glad and agreed. I was employed at the Auslandswissenschaftliche Fakultät as teacher ("sprach-Lehrbeauftragter") with a salary of 200 RMK.

On Nov. 22nd 1943 my house was destroyed by the Allied Air Force. I travelled to Plankenwarth, recovered there from the recent events, lived there one month, did not work but obtained my salary. In January 1944 I came back to Berlin. I visited Professor DONAT and asked him to help me get rid of the Wannsee-Institute. He phoned to Dr. KRAUSE, the chief of the Reichstiftung für Landeskunde, the immediate chief of the Wannsee-Institute and Ost-Asien-Institute I was allowed to work at the Ost-Asien-Institute. There I was working from January 1944 till March 1945. In July 1944 the Ost-Asien-Institute was evacuated to Marienbad (Czechoslovakia) and I followed it.

In the Ost-Asien-Institute I wrote a book, "Mongolia" (a general description of the country) and 2 short papers "Pan-Turanism" and "Psychology of the Mongols". I liked the Ost-Asien-Institute. Professor DONAT who was a Jew (was a member of the NSDAP and worked at the Foreign Office. Though a member of the party he behaved not like a Nazi. He told me of the coming collapse of Germany and promised me money that I could exist after the collapse. and he and some of his collaborators were sure that I could be employed after the war by the Allies. His secretary.

(Mrs. Hartmann was an Anti-Nazi. His collaborator (Mr.) MULLNER formerly sat in prison because he spoke against the Nazis and the librarian Mr. FRANZ ZALNER son of a pastor in Bavaria, once said to me "Glauben Sie das dieser ganze Mist noch lange halten wird"? (It was in February 1945). A girl FRANZ KERN listened to the BBC every evening. She was denounced by the Geschäftsführer of the Institute KRAUSE. The reaction was that Mr. DONAT discharged the denunciator who was sent to the Wannsee-Institute, and DONAT himself went to the Gestapo Marienbad, and suppressed that affair. The girl was given her wireless and she remained in the Institute. Though the Institute belonged to the Amt VI it was not a Nazi-Institute and the people there were decent.

After March 1945 we did not work because it was useless and nobody controlled us.

In May 1945 Marienbad was occupied by the American troops. On May 9th 1945 I left Marienbad and went on foot to BAMBERG in Bavaria and from there I travelled by train in the British Zone where I had friends. My wife was unable to go on foot. She remained in Marienbad in a hospital, was evacuated to Berlin and came from Berlin to us.

Since March 1945 I did not work.

## XII

### People I know

I know many people in Russia and in other countries. - it would be difficult to enumerate them. Therefore I shall enumerate people of importance only.

#### A People in Russia

I know many people in Russia, in the first place scientists.

##### (a) Scientists.

1. Alexeev, Vasil MIKHAILOVICH, member of the Ac. of Sciences.  
(Chinese language and literature)

2. Barannikov, Alexei Petrovich, member of the Ac. of Sc. (Baltic languages)
3. Borisyak, Alexei Alexievich, member of the Ac. of Sc. (Geology)
4. Volgin, V.P. Vice-chairman of the Ac. of Sc. (Marxist philosophy)
5. Grekov, B.D. member of the Ac. of Sc. (History) also member of the Pan-Slavonic Congress in Belgrad (1946).
6. Derzavin, N.S. of the Ac. of Sc. (Slavonic languages).
7. Zoffe, A.F.M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Physics).
8. Kryloff, A.N.M. of the Ac. of Sc. (mathematics, ship-building).
9. Meschaninov, I.I.M. of the Ac. of Sc. (linguistics).
10. Muskhelishvili, N.I. Chairman of the Georgian Acad. of Sc. (atomic physics)
11. Oshchepkov, S.P.M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Slavonic languages)
12. Shtrucev, V.A. M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Geology)
13. Orbelli, J.A. Chairman of the Armenian Ac. of Sc. (archaeology)
14. Polynov, B.B.M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Geology)
15. Struve, V.V. M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Egyptology)
16. Ferman, A.E. M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Geology)
17. Burg, L.S. M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Geography)
18. Gligoriyoff, A.A. M. of the Ac. of Sc. (Geography)
19. Bertels, E.E. (Professor) (Persian literature)
20. Zaimundskii, V.M. (Prof.) (German literature)
21. Kuzmin, N.K. (Prof.) (Russian literature)
22. Barkindarov, S.G. (Prof.) (Russian language)
23. Poliyayev, V.I. (Prof.) (Arabic language)
24. Voronogin, G.I. (Prof.) (Zoology)
25. Vinnikov, I.N. (Prof.) manager of the Institute of Ethnology of the Ac. of Sc.
26. Vinogradov, V.V. (Prof.) (Russian language).
27. Gelfreich, V.G. (Prof.) (architect) one of the builders of the Soviet Palace in Moscow.
28. Gelford, A.O. (Prof.) (architect)
29. Gippins, E.Y. (Prof.) (Folk-lore)
30. Andronov, M.E. (Prof.) (Folk-lore)
31. Gerasimov, M. (Prof.) Secretary of the Institute of Linguistics in Moscow
32. Gerasimov, V.G. (Prof.) of physics in Leningrad
33. Gerasimov, S.A. (Prof.) (Georgian language) in Leningrad.
34. Gerasimov, G.A. (Prof.) Manager of the Arch. in Leningrad.
35. Gerasimov, D.V. (Prof.) (Slavonic languages)
36. Gerasimov, A.V. (Prof.) (Slavonic and Lithuanian)

37. Lebedev, Polyan I, P.I. Member of Sc (Russian literature).
38. Orlov, A.S. Member of Ac. of Sc. (Russian literature)
39. Piskunov, N.K. Member of Ac. of Sc. (Russian literature)
40. Baskovskii, I.P. (Prof) (Geology of Mongolia and Siberia)
41. Serebrovskii, A.S. (Prof.) (Zoology)
42. Tolstvi, I.I. (Prof.) (Greek and Roman philology)
43. Usarov, K.A. Secretary of the Anti-Religious Museum in Leningrad.
44. Frantsov, J.P. (Prof.) Manager of the Anti-Religious Museum.
45. Seerba, L.V. (Prof) (Linguistics,
46. Jakovlev, N.E. (Prof.) (Caucasian languages)
47. Sigmarev, V.F. (Prof) (Roman philology)
48. Sanseev, G.D. (Prof) (Mongolian language) in Moscow.
49. Tufakhin, K.K. (Prof) (Turkic languages) " "
50. Dmitriyev, N.K. (Prof) ( " " ) " "
51. Kononov, A.P. (Prof) ( " " ) in LENINGRAD.
52. Borovkova, A.K. (Prof) ( " " ) in "
53. Pignlevskaya, N.V. (Prof) (Syrian) " "
54. Riffin A.P. (Prof) (Linguistics) " "
55. Yernstedt, P.V. (Prof) (Ancient philogy) " "
56. Dragunov, A.A. (Prof) (Chinese) " "
57. Konrad, N.I. (Prof) (Japanese) " "
58. Freimann, A.A. (Prof) (Persian) " "

I know the above mentioned people well.

(c) Political workers and members of the Government.

1. Lavientiev, I. Secretary of the Communist Party in the Calmuok region.
2. Karatkin, II. Secretary of the same.
3. Nasunov, III " " "
4. Orlov, Jal Darbakovic, Chief of the propaganda department of the same.
5. Goryayev, N.L. Prime Minister of the Calmuok Government.
6. Laipanov, I Secretary of the Comm. Party in the Carachai region.
7. Bonjiyev, Prime Minister of the Buriat Republic.
8. Ignatiev, I Secretary of the Comm. Party in the Buriat Republic.
9. Bogdanov, (General) of the Red Army.
10. Gorodovikov, O. I. (General-Colonel) of the Red Army. Inspector of the cavalry.
11. Vavilov, S.I. Member of the Ac. of Science, Chairman of the Academy, member of the High Soviet of USSR.

12. Bel'gayev, G.G. Minister of education of the Buriat Republic.
13. Sangaajiev, P.D. Minister of education of the Calpuok Republic.
14. Khabaev, M.P. Former Minister of education of the Buriat Rep.

B. People in MONGOLIA.

1. (Marshal) Choibalsan, the dictator of Mongolia., Prime Minister, War Minister and Foreign Minister.
2. Dandin, Surun, Secretary of the Scientific Committee.
3. Trusov, A.A. Chief of the Commerce department of the Russian Embassy.
4. Rigzino, B. Sovietic Consul in Mongolia.
5. Mikhailov, Chief of the Press department of the Soviet Embassy in Mongolia.

C. People in MANJURIA

1. Mersel, former agent of General Fen yus hsien worked against the Soviets, was connected with Japan.
2. Fu Ming Tai, another agent.
3. Altan Batu another agent.
4. Erkin Batu (an agent)

These people are Dagoors and taught me their language.

D. People in CHINA.

1. Petrov, A.A. secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Nanking.
2. Antoine Mostaert, Prof. Catholic Missionary in Pei-Ping.
3. A. de Smedt, Catholic Missionary in Pei-Ping.

E. People in FINLAND.

1. G.F. Ramstedt, (Prof.) (Helsinki)
  2. M. Räsänen (Prof) ( " " )
  3. Knigola, (Prof) ( " " )
  4. A.D. Rudnev, Prof. ( " " )
  5. A. Lehtisalo, Prof ( " " )
- linguistics.

F. People in SWEDEN

1. Gunnar Jarring, (Prof of Turkic (Upsala)
2. Baskot, (Prof) of Turkic in Lund.

G. People in DENMARK

1. Kaare Grunbech, (Prof) of Turkic (Kopenhagen)
2. Saariäte, (Prof of Finnish (Kopenhagen)
3. Mark, Julius, (Prof of Finno-Ouglian languages (Kopenhagen)

H. People in England.

1. Haloun (Prof.) of Chinese (Cambridge)
2. Dr. E. Lindgren, Ethnology (Cambridge)
3. Boyanus, S.K. Prof of Russian (London)

I. People in U.S.A.

1. Karl Menges<sup>s</sup> (Prof.) of Slavonic and Turkic languages.  
(Columbia University) a good friend of mine.
2. S.G. Eliseyev, (Prof.) of Japanese at the Harvard University.
3. G. Roerick, Tibetan art (a son of the famous painter).
4. Owen Lattimore. University Baltimore.

K. People in Germany.

1. (Prof.) Erich Haenisch, Chinese language, Univ. Munich.
2. (Dr.) A.V. Gabain, Turkic languages, Univ. Munich.
3. (Prof.) H. Schaeder, Prof of Iranian languages, Univ. Göttingen.
4. (Prof.) Spuhler, history of Asia, Univ. Göttingen.
5. Prof. F. Weller, Prof of Chinese, Sanskrit and Tibetan (Leipzig).
6. Prof. Wolf, Rector of the University, Hamburg.
7. Dr. A.V. Unkrig, China Institute of the Univ. Frankfurt.
8. Prof. M. Vasmer, Slavonic languages, Univ. Berlin.
9. Prof. Ramming, Japanese, Univ. Berlin.
10. Prof. G. Jaschke, Turkic University, Berlin.
11. Prof. O. Hansen, Iranian languages, Univ. Berlin.
12. Prof. Scheel, secretary of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft.
13. Prof. W. Donat, Japanese, Former director of the Ost-Asien-Institute.
14. Dr. Reichel(t), Japanese, collaborator of that institute.
15. M. Müldner, Japanese " " "
16. Prof. Krüger (Geography) Former coll. of the Ost-As.Int.
17. Mrs. E. Hartmann, secretary of that Institute.
18. Dr. Loehuis (Dutch) former coll. of that institute.
19. Prof. Achmeteli, former director of the Wannsee-Institute.
20. Dr. E. Angsburg " collaborator " "
21. Dr. Hasselblatt " " " "
22. Dr. Vlack " " " "
23. Dr. A. Svecin " " " "
24. Dr. G. Wagner " Secretary " "
25. Prof. U. Kleinfeldt. collaborator " "

only all names

ref

27. (Dr.) Krallert, Chief of the Reichsstiftung für Länderkunde  
( I met him twice).
28. (Dr.) Paulsen of the same ( I met him twice).
29. (Dr.) Mengelhaupt
30. (Dr.) Wehrhach
31. (Dr.) LEO of the Amt VI, I met them twice or thrice.
32. (Dr.) Stendle
33. (Dr.) Handrack
34. Klingford.
35. (Dr.) Teich.

### My Project.

#### 2. III

Everyone has his projects, aims and hopes, without them life is useless.

I have projects too. My wish was always working in a free democratic state because I learned what it means to work in totalitarian countries: I know two totalitarian states and this is sufficient., and I hope that my wish will be accomplished because I am a rather wanted as a scientist in certain countries.

Of course my principal wish is working on the theoretical scientific domains as linguist, philologist, as lecturer at a university and as explorer at a research institute. But I understand that practical tasks are sometimes more interesting for the government. As shown above, I worked as a scientist, as a professor at the University and performed practical tasks for the Soviet Government. Therefore I ask why cannot I be used as explorer, as teacher or as a practical worker in a democratic country? I am sure I can be used and my advantage is that neither in America nor in England are people knowing the countries I know as well as I know them. My first-hand knowledge of those countries is more profound than the knowledge acquired by explorers who made a trip to Siberia or central Asia for 1 - 2 months without knowledge of the languages of the natives and sometimes even without knowledge of the Russian language. But I lived there and as a former Soviet citizen I was able to visit countries few foreigners never had seen. Therefore I reckon I could work in a democratic country where the sciences I represent have never been represented, and I believe that certain democratic countries playing an important role in Eastern Asia must be interested in my sciences. For instance, who knows the languages of the Mongolian and Tungusian tribes in England and America? Who has here a first-hand knowledge of all conditions in Siberia, Mongolia, Manchuria and Sinkiang? Who knows there the Caucasus? Nobody!

Here I name some scientific questions I want to work on:

#### I Theoretical Tasks

1. Scientific grammars of the following languages.
  - (a) Script Mongolian.
  - (b) Khalkha.
  - (c) Buriat.
  - (d) Inner Mongolian.
  - (e) Tungus.
  - (f) Manju.
2. A Mongolian - English dictionary.
3. A comparative grammar of the Mongolian, Turkic, Manju and Tungus.
4. The Korean language and its relationship.



5. A grammar on the Korean dialects.
6. Cataloguation and description of the Mongolian Manuscripts in the British Museum and other museums.

### III. Practical Tasks

Every country is more interested in practical works than in theoretical explanations. Therefore I can propose the following subjects.

1. General descriptions including the geography, history, ethnology, politics, etc of the following countries.

- (a) Siberia.
- (b) Turkestan.
- (c) Caucasus.
- (d) Mongolia.
- (e) Manjuria.
- (f) Sinkiang.

2. Detailed items on the following subjects:

- (a) Breeding cattle in Mongolia.
- (b) Agriculture in Mongolia.
- (c) Industry in Mongolia.
- (d) Collective farms in the Buriat region.
- (e) Economics of the Buriat region.
- (f) Mining in the Buriat region and in Mongolia, especially rare metals (Molybdenum, Wulfenium, Tridium).
- (g) Industry of the Buriat region.
- (h) The Mongolian Popular Party.
- (i) Political structure of Mongolia.
- (j) Pan-Mongolism.
- (k) The struggle of the Caucasian tribes against the Soviets (1928 - 1942).
- (l) The Soviet policy towards the nationalities in USSR.
- (m) The national art in the autonomous republics of USSR.
- (n) School and science in the Autonomous Republics of USSR.

3. Consultation of the War Department, Trade Department etc. concerning the countries I know.

There is a choice of subjects and I am sure that after having gathered different other materials I could offer more topics.

XIV

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I belong rather to well-known scientists and was elected member of many scientific societies (s.VII). In the last time the Cambridge University in England forwarded the following letter to the Foreign Office:

"The undersigned recently learned that the well-known linguistic scholar, Professor N.N.Poppe was residing in the British Zone of Germany.

We wish to state that, with respect to the large group of Altaic languages in Central Asia, he is either one of the very few outstanding authorities in the world, or the sole authority known to us. Specifically, there is no one with a knowledge of the numerous dialects of Mongol and Tungus which approaches that of N.N.Poppe, and he is also familiar with a number of little-known Turkic languages. Altaic studies have never developed in this country, nor indeed flourished anywhere outside Russia, Finland, and to some extent Germany; an area which comprises an important part of the former Chinese colonial empire and the non-Slavonic populations of the Eastern USSR, and is of vital interest to sinologists, turcologists and others has remained unrepresented.

It would be of the greatest importance to have available an expert with first-hand knowledge of these languages and civilizations, who would be prepared to train students, and to catalogue and read valuable documents which are now inaccessible to scholarship. We would therefore welcome any steps which could be taken to make it possible for Professor Poppe to come to Great Britain and engage in academic and research work here".

This letter is signed by Professor Briley, Prof. Baloun, Dr. Hill, Dr. Lindgren, Sir E. Minas, Prof. Moule of Cambridge, Sir J. Pratt, Dr. Simon and Miss Wingate of London, Prof. Gibb and Mr. Hudson of Oxford.

In his letter of Aug. 19th 1946, Prof. K. Menges (Columbia University in the City of New York) wrote me: "Today Mr. Mortimer Graves, the Secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies, was by chance here at this University and looked me up in my office. He knew about you, and had heard where you are. I discussed your case with him minutely, and he said, at the beginning of our discussion 'Yes, we must have a Mongolist in this country'. I remember, that some years ago, when I saw him in his Washington office, he showed me a number of your works, some of which he had translated into English and it seemed, quite well."

Thus even the recent judgements of learned people in Great Britain, and USA acknowledge me a qualified specialist in my dominion.

Nicholas Poppe.

P.S. I know that nobody has any doubt concerning me as scientist and that the difficulties are of political kind. But are they invincible? Why must a scientist praised by his fellow-scientists live in desperate conditions without any prospects that he will be allowed to continue his useful scientific work? Is he a criminal, a murderer, a collaborator of the Nazis? Did he kill or rob? On the contrary, himself living in a desperate condition in the Caucasus while other people robbed former Soviet property he helped those Mountain Jews without any reward and not requiring any reward. In all other countries, in France or in Belgium etc. a man who helped his fellow-citizens during the German occupation would have been proclaimed a national hero.

/But I am

But I am called a traitor, a war criminal and I am refused to work in any country not only as specialist on my scientific subjects but even as teacher on other subjects familiar to me. I must live in hiding as if I were an escaped criminal. Is there any justice, I mean human justice? Why people who had plotted against the lives of the Czsars and their Ministers were allowed to live openly in Switzerland and in other countries? Why people who disagreed with the Nazis were given shelter in all countries? Or are there two justices, one concerning murderers of the Czsars and another concerning fugitives from Russia? Is justice a Janus-faced being?

If the political difficulties in my case are too big and I can by no means be employed as professor well I should be glad to get a modest job of teacher at a school of languages and lecture on Russian and change my name. But of course this must be in a country where I could live with my family in safety. In my free time I could at least read scientific books and write on subjects familiar to me promising not to publish them in my lifetime in order not to disclose my living in another country under a cover name. I am not entitled to require anything, I merely ask for pity. My present life is a mental torture because I have no prospect and if I published my memoirs future scientists would not understand how it could be possible that nothing could be done for me. I am sure my persecutors would not find or discover me if I got a job as modest teacher on Russian at an unknown provincial school. They would expect me to be a professor at a University where my right place is because it does not pay to leave his country and to lose his brilliant scientific career in order to become a teacher. Nevertheless I should be satisfied with this. I should be content even with the job of an ordinary worker at a museum, cleaning, watching visitors, preventing theft, or I could work at a library, even at a workshop of a museum where ancient objects are restored, cleaned, photographed etc. because I had to deal with such matters, and it is not possible that the world is so small that there is nowhere a place for me.

People speak much about the misery of the fugitives and displaced persons, about the conditions in totalitarian states but little is done.

My case is an exceptional one and in exceptional cases but exceptional measures can be taken. Thousands of people are employed in secret jobs in all countries. Nobody knows anything about them, even their original names are unknown to their fellow-citizens. I do not ask for a secret job, I merely ask for any job and discretion concerning my past. But this must be anywhere in the British Commonwealth or America because sooner or later I can be recognised here despite of all precautions.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

PROFESSOR NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH POPPE

1. Born in Foochow, China on 8th August, 1897 of Russian parents of German origin, his father being the Czarist Consul in Foochow.
2. His wife, Frau Natalia POPPE, is a cripple now in Germany and normally acts as his librarian.
3. He has two sons -
  - (a) Vello POPPE, alias Vello POOP - aged 20, living at ~~University, Wagmiller Strasse 19, MUNICH~~ - now believed to be in difficulties since UNRRA refused to continue to maintain him.
  - (b) Nicholas POPPE, alias Nigol POOP - aged 18, living at 14 Stuttgart Zuffenhausen Hohensteinschule Russisches Gymnasium - also understood to be in difficulties since he cannot obtain the support of the American authorities for entrance to a German University, and is also without funds.
4. After studying Ethnology at St. Petersburg University, POPPE became the world authority on MONGOLIA and the Mongolian languages. He is the greatest living authority on the CALMUCK REPUBLIC and its language, and of the MONGOL-TUNGUS-TURKISH group of languages.
5. He became a corresponding member of the SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, and until June, 1941 was a Professor in the INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES at Leningrad University.
6. In July, 1941 he went to EYLSEA, capital of the Calmuck Republic, where he worked as a Professor until August, 1942. Moved from there when the German approached to MIKOTAN-SHAKHAR (Caucasus). This place was over-run by the Germans on 15th August, 1942.
7. During the period of German occupation, he acted as an interpreter or intermediary between the Germans and the local population. (This is now the subject of a charge by the Russians indicting him as a War Criminal and/or Traitor). Claims during this period to have influenced the German to exercise moderation in their occupation, and in particular to have averted the massacre of a tribe of Mountain Jews.
8. Fled from the Caucasus, when the Russians approached, to the West and until March 1943, lived in NIKOPOL. When the Red Army threatened this place, he moved to LWOV where he lived in a refugee camp. Was offered work as a specialist in Germany by the S.S. which he accepted.
9. Taken to Berlin by train in May, 1943 and joined the GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, headed by Dr. von zur MUEHLEN. From here he joined the WANNESE INSTITUTE, headed by Dr. ACHMISTELI, in 1942 and remained there until September, 1943. He later joined the OSTASIEN INSTITUTE, and throughout this period lectured at the FOREIGN STUDIES FACULTY of Berlin University.
10. Evacuated with the OSTASIEN INSTITUTE to MARIENBAD in August, 1944, where he remained with the INSTITUTE until March, 1945, when the U.S. forces arrived. Moved to Bavaria, having heard that the Russians might take over MARIENBAD, and from there moved to the British Zone. Was taken into protective custody by the British Military Authorities.
11. POPPE is, first and foremost, a scholar, and has little interest in politics. He claims to have both anti-Nazi and anti-Communist view but is passionately interested in his studies and in very little else. His principal concern at present is the security and education of his two sons. No reliance can be placed on the discretion of this family, and in particular on Frau POPPE.

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REPORT ON INTERVIEW  
WITH PROFESSOR NIKOLAS POPPE  
ON 31 OCT 46

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I

INTRODUCTION

1. POPPE, who is 51, looks older than his age. He is a typical scientist, remote from, and almost childish about, problems of practical life. His statements are genuine, and there can be no doubt as to his sincerity.
2. He seems deeply attached to his wife, who is an invalid, and his two sons, whose fate seems to be his and his wife's greatest worry.
3. Politically, he does not seem to hold any very strong views, except humanitarian ones, e.g. he is opposed to any form of violence, cruelty and persecution, whoever the perpetrators may be.
4. He has an all absorbing interest in his own particular field of research - MONGOLIA - on which he seems to be a unique authority.
5. During the interview, NO questions were asked about RUSSIA, nor was the impression created that he might be used as a source of information on that country. Questions were purposely confined to his experience with the GERMAN Institute (WANKEE and ORIENTAL INSTITUTE) which he worked for, to the personalities he met there, and, as far as was necessary, to his personal background.

II

RECENT HISTORY

6. POPPE was discovered by the GERMANS in 1942 when their leading elements reached the CASPIAN. He was then living at ELISTA, capital of the CALMUCH REPUBLIC, where he had been carrying on research work for some years.
7. Owing to his knowledge of the German language and of local conditions he seemed the obvious man to be used by German authorities in their dealings with the local chieftains. In this capacity, he came into contact with members of the Army, Party, and civil administration.
8. He states - and there seems little reason to doubt his word - that he used all his influence to protect the natives, whom he loved, from persecution. In particular, it was owing to his intervention that a tribe of Mountain Jews (PERSIAN tribe that some 800 years ago adopted the Jewish religion) at NALTSCHIK escaped extermination.
9. In this connection, it might be worth mentioning that according to him the main accusation levelled at him by the RUSSIANS appears to be that he was responsible for the CALMUCH rising in 1942. This, in fact, happened long after he (and the GERMANS) had left, and, it would appear, is an occurrence which has been happening periodically since the days of the Czar, the fact that the CALMUCKS resent any form of RUSSIAN domination.
10. On arrival in GERMANY, POPPE was sent to the Ostministerium with a view to obtaining employment. There, Professor MENDE passed him on to the DIENSTELLE OSTFORSCHUNG, Foreign Office Research Department, headed by Dr. Von ZUMMELLEN. In that Department he first met Dr. ACHMETELLI, who was then head of the WANKEE INSTITUTE.
11. ACHMETELLI talked to him about the Institut under his charge and suggested that he should join the research staff. POPPE, who thought that this

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would be a good opportunity to continue his research work on MONGOLIA, accepted, only to find out later that the WANNSEE INSTITUT was more concerned with obtaining intelligence on RUSSIA proper than on CENTRAL ASIA.

12. At the WANNSEE INSTITUT he wrote two papers :-

- (a) Nationalitätspolitik der Sowjet Union
- (b) The Peoples of East Siberia.

13. He was, however, not very happy in his work there, particularly after the Institute had moved to FLANKENWARTH, where according to him, it never got properly organised. Towards the end of 1944 he met Dr. LEO of Amt VI - C/4 who talked to him of the Ostasian Institut, and suggested that more congenial employment for him might be found there. However, to obtain the transfer, it was necessary to obtain the permission of Dr. KRALLERT, the co-ordinating head of the various research Institutes. The permission was obtained by Dr. LEO and in April 1945 the transfer took place.

14. The OSTASIAN INSTITUT, headed by Professor DONATH, was a very different organisation to the WANNSEE INSTITUT. The work there was purely scientific and he was able to continue in his own line of research. Professor DONATH, who was not of pure Aryan extraction, was no lover of the Nazi regime and was only retained in his position owing to his great knowledge. In Spring, 1945, the Institut was evacuated to MARIENBAD.

15. Whilst at the OSTASIAN INSTITUT, POPPE wrote the following papers:-

- (a) Mentality of the Mongolians.  
(A psychological study).
- (b) Die Mongolei. (Published by Ausland-wissenschaftliche Institut)

16. After the collapse, POPPE remained for a while at MARIENBAD, and then found his way into the British Zone of GERMANY.

### III.

#### INFORMATION ON GERMAN AGENCIES AND PERSONALITIES.

#### 17. WANNSEE INSTITUT

Apart from information already known, the following was established:-

- (a) Dr. ACHMETELI is apparently still at large and probably in contact with AMERICAN authorities in the U.S. Zone of GERMANY. It appears that not long ago POPPE was visited by an AMERICAN officer called MEYER, stationed at NUREMBERG, who seemed to be in touch with him and showed great knowledge about the WANNSEE INSTITUT and affiliated organisations.
- (b) POPPE has a high opinion of Professor KLEINFELDT but has no idea of what happened to him since 1944.

#### 18. UNTERNEHMEN ZEPPELIN

The headquarters of this organisation were situated at 30 - 32 Bernauerstrasse, BERLIN. He came in contact there with

- (a) (SS Hauptsturmführer) HANBRACK
- (b) (SS Sturmbannführer) HENGELHAUPT (Head of Unternehmen Zeppelin).

He has no recent information about either of them.

19. OSTASIEN INSTITUT

- (a) Professor DONATH (See para 14).  
It appears that Professor DONATH is now living in BERLIN; POPPE had a message from him through his secretary, Frau HARTMANN (also a great anti-Nazi) last March.
- (b) Dr. LOHUIS, a Dutchman, who was the expert on MALAYA.
- (c) Professor HERMANN (killed in an air raid) who was the expert on CHINA and computed a CHINESE Atlas.
- (d) KRAUSE, Rainer, one of the secretaries; a bad character, who on various occasions denounced DONATH, HARTMANN, and other anti-Nazis, and
- (e) SALZNER, the librarian, who now lives at MAINHEIM in FRANCONIA.

20. SS. EINSAATZ KOMMANDO No. 12. This unit operated in the CAIMUCH area in 1942 and, according to POPPE, committed the usual atrocities (extermination of Jews etc.). The most sinister figures were:

- (a) Obersturmbannführer WOLBING, head of E.K. 12 then stationed at KISLARODSK.
- (b) Sturmbannführer ERSTERER stationed at PIETIGORSK, and
- (c) BIEKAMP at VOROSHILOVSK, with whom he intervened in the matter referred to in para. 8.

N.B. POPPE mentioned a number of other personalities of interest to the Apple Pie investigation, who have been included in the card index.

IV.

21. POPPE holds a German "fremden pass" in his own name (as stateless RUSSIAN of GERMAN extraction) made out in 1943, and prolonged to 1947. Also an ESTONIAN pass, which he obtained from the ESTONIAN Committee at HAMBURG in January 1946. This pass is made out in the name of Nigel POOP and was obtained for him by ESTONIAN friends to protect him from persecution.

22. The addresses of POPPE's sons, who also live under assumed names, are:

- (a) Vello POPE (aged 20)  
stationed at UNRRA University,  
MUNICH.  
Wagmüller Strasse 19.
- (b) Nigel POOP (aged 17)  
at D.P. UNRRA School, WILHELMSTHAL.  
MÜNCHENSHOF, near KASSEL.

23. In England POPPE has been in contact with Professor HALOON, 14 Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, who wrote to him on October 19, 1946.

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INTERROGATION REPORT ON PROFESSOR NICHOLAS  
POPPE

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1. BACKGROUND

POPPE was born on 8th August, 1897 at FOCHOW in CHINA, not in Leningrad (as claimed in the Soviet request for his extradition). His parents were Russian subjects of German origin. He studied in RUSSIA and eventually became the outstanding authority in the world on the Mongol group of languages. He was a member of the Soviet Academy of Science and until June, 1941, was a Professor in the Institute of Oriental Studies at Leningrad University.

POPPE's theories about the Mongol races did not accord with the Party line. He was frequently threatened by the MVD and accused of sabotaging the unity of the Soviet peoples by stressing various Mongol racial characteristics. Many of his colleagues and friends were purged during the 1936/8 period.

In July, 1941, he went to ELISTA, the capital of the KALMUCK republic, where he worked as a Professor until August, 1942. When the Germans approached ELISTA, he went to MIKOTAN-SHAKHAR (Caucasus); this place was overrun by the Germans on 15th August, 1942.

2. Contacts with German Forces of Occupation

It was inevitable, in view of his excellent German and wide fame, that POPPE should have been invited by the local Quislings to come over to the Germans with them. Despite his dislike for the Soviet regime, POPPE claims that he refused to become a collaborationist. However, he was invited several times to act as an interpreter or intermediary between the German authorities and the local population.

POPPE claims that he used these contacts to mitigate the sufferings of the local population. In this way, he was able to persuade the Germans not to exterminate a tribe of mountaineers of the Jewish faith by 'proving' to them that racially they were akin to the Persians. The German officer in charge of the SS squads, who was responsible for many atrocities in the region, was Fritz WOLFBING. Following upon the incident of the mountain Jews, POPPE wrote, at WOLFBING's request, a survey of the various races in the Caucasus.

POPPE firmly denies any connection with any KALMUCK rising and also denies having encouraged any anti-Soviet political movements. While he was in the area, no such rising took place. If there was one, it must have occurred long after the departure of the Germans and of POPPE. (Note: POPPE believes that the Russians suspect him of instigating such a rising; on the other hand, this does not figure on the list of accusations against him sent to us by the Soviet authorities).

Flight to GERMANY

As POPPE had no official connection with the Germans, his flight from the Caucasus was undertaken without any German assistance. He fled when the Russians approached MIKOTAN-SHAKHAR; his motives were two-fold -

- i) He did not want to live under the Soviet regime,
- ii) Although his contacts with the Germans were harmless, there was every likelihood of trouble with the MVD when the Soviets came back.

He and his family made their way to GERMANY by hitch-hiking, travelling in a railway goods wagon, bartering clothes and valuables, etc. Until March, 1943, they lived at NIKOPOL but, when the Red Army threatened this place, they went with crowds of refugees to LNOW where they were housed in an uncomfortable refugee camp.

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#### Work for the Germans.

At LEONOW members of the SS offered to refugees who were specialists, employment in GERMANY. POPPE felt that he had no alternative but to accept as otherwise life held no future. He hoped to be able to continue his research into Mongolian problems. He was taken to BERLIN by train in May, 1943.

On arrival in BERLIN, POPPE tried to get a job as Professor of Mongolian at BERLIN University; to this end he approached Professor HAENISCH and Professor MENDE. Unfortunately, the Professorship was not available and POPPE's money was running out. In the end, he therefore accepted a job in the German Foreign Office research department which was headed by Dr. von MUEHLEN. There he was introduced to the then head of the WANNSEE Institute, Dr. ACHMETELLI.

ACHMETELLI invited POPPE to join his research staff. POPPE claims that he thought this would enable him to continue his Mongolian researches and it was not until he was sent to Amt VI to sign the various forms that he realised the connection between the WANNSEE Institute and the RSHA.

He remained with the Institute until the end of September, 1943. During this time he wrote two papers:

- a) Policy of the Soviet Union towards National Minorities,
- b) Peoples of Eastern Siberia.

In September, 1943, the Institute was evacuated to GRAZ; POPPE used his wife's ill health as an excuse for remaining in BERLIN as he did not like the work of the Institute.

He secured employment for himself at the Foreign Studies Faculty of BERLIN University; however, the pay was not sufficient to keep his family so he went to see Dr. LEO of the RSHA to enquire about employment in the Ostasian Institute.

Dr. LEO introduced POPPE to Professor DONATH, who gave him abstract work to do. He claims that although he no longer worked for the WANNSEE Institute, he had to remain nominally on their staff in order that Dr. ACHMETELLI should not get annoyed.

While in the Ostasian Institute POPPE wrote a Mongolian grammar, a study of the Mongolian mentality and a paper on MONGOLIA.

He was evacuated to MARIENBAD in August, 1944, and was there with the Institute until March, 1945, when the Americans arrived. He moved to BAVARIA when he heard that the Russians might take over MARIENBAD, and then went to stay with an acquaintance - Frau Herte KOENIG, at Gut BOECKEL, near BUNDE in the British Zone.

#### Conclusions.

It will be seen from the above story that POPPE admits having worked for organs of the RSHA. The nature of the work he did, however, was certainly a long way removed from the seamier side of the RSHA's activities. POPPE strikes one as a sincere scientist of no definite political opinions; it is quite likely that his dislike of the Soviet regime is based on the constant interference of that regime with his studies and researches.

He was interrogated carefully about his activities during the German occupation of RUSSIA. It seems to the interrogator that POPPE's position in the Caucasus was that which he has described, i.e. that he was an outstanding personality and a German speaker in a region devoid of both, and that inevitably he had continuous contacts with the German authorities. This, in itself, would be sufficient to damn him in the eyes of the Soviet authorities.

The actual Soviet accusation against him states that he "was an active agent of the Gestapo and in collaboration with Gestapo agents, personally took part in the interrogation . . . and brutal beatings of arrested Soviet citizens. Whatever the truth may be, it is very doubtful if this is the truth and indeed, this has been tacitly submitted by the Soviet authorities when they "downgraded" the accusations against him from the status of war criminal to that of traitor.

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The latter accusation would seem to hold good, however. POPEE  
was a Soviet citizen who, on his own admission, left the USSR  
voluntarily and took employment with organs of the KGB.

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To: A/Director, Special Ops.

From: Special Ops Sect.

Date: 13 May 48.

Signature: T.N. Paul

SUBJECT: POPPE Nikolaus - Operation "FATHER CHRISTMAS"

1. On 12 May 48 I accompanied POPPE to FRANKFURT/MAIN.
2. First contact was established with POPPE's friend MENGES at Gutleutstr. 102. My presence was left unexplained to MENGES. POPPE satisfied himself that correspondence through MENGES had, in fact, been bona fide as far as MENGES was concerned.
3. We proceeded with MENGES in tow to a CIU office in the Nerdendstr. to meet a CIU officer of MENGES' acquaintance whom he had taken into his confidence regarding POPPE.
4. This CIU officer, named MAHNER (pronounced MAYNER, ex VIENNA 1926) then took POPPE and myself to the HQ in the IG Farben building to meet the originator of the American enquiries re POPPE, ops Mr. OFFIE. OFFIE's function was described to me by MAHNER as political adviser to General HUBNER.
5. MAHNER informed me in a private conversation that he was the American officer who had come to the LEMGO area to search for POPPE and that he had done so on OFFIE's instigation. OFFIE had painted him a picture of operational urgency and had told him that he, OFFIE, had come over from the States specially to deal with this business, which he, MAHNER, was not disposed to believe, knowing OFFIE's function in FRANKFURT. MAHNER claimed that he deliberately laid off the hunt once he found POPPE had gone to ground, as he feared that too persistent an enquiry would alarm POPPE and drive him elsewhere.
6. Immediately before his interview with OFFIE, POPPE displayed some agitation as to how much he should say about his present circumstances. He asked me if he could mention that his children were in England, and how he should explain my presence. He needed no encouragement to say nothing to anybody about his present whereabouts and himself proposed that all further communications from the American authorities to him should be made via USLO HERFORD. I instructed him to leave all explanations involving myself, my unit and those taking care of him generally, to me.

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To: M. GKA-6169

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problems. OFFIE questioned him on general and personal subjects in such a way that the sequence of questions was described by POPPE as "incoherent". No definite promise was made and nothing specific arranged except that OFFIE would, at some future date, unspecified, communicate with POPPE again via USLO. POPPE states that OFFIE said quite

in the presence of POPPE and MAHNER. OFFIE informed me that the purpose of the exercise was for him to satisfy himself that POPPE was alive and well in order to be able to reassure friends of POPPE's in America who were worried about him. He then informed me that certain Universities, unspecified, in America, would be interested to employ POPPE and that this might be arranged. He asked me if POPPE was in fact, as well fed as he said he was, as he looked undernourished. We arranged for further communications to be made via USLO. OFFIE's tone throughout was pompous and slightly offensive. He was at pains to have me in the room for as short a time as possible.

9. POPPE viewed the whole exercise with mixed feelings. On the one hand he is satisfied that so much trouble would not be taken by correspondents in America, Senior Governmental Officials in FRANKFURT, and itinerant officers searching for him in the British Zone unless some serious proposition were in mind; as against which he was told nothing definite yesterday, he was asked questions, the answer to which was evident from the written biography that he submitted,

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